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CIA-RDP92R01136R000200170022-0

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For your information, attached is a statement
on net assessment activities, per DD/Comptroller's
request. A copy was sent to him directly, via
AIM.

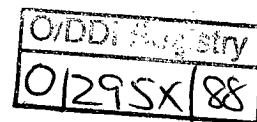


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8 April 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Leo Hazlewood

FROM:

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SUBJECT: Keeping Posted on Net Assessments

1. This memo is intended to keep you informed of our net assessment activities, per your request.

2. Last week we prepared the attached talking points for the ADDI in anticipation of questions he might receive from the SSCI on what we are doing about net assessments. You may already have seen an earlier version of these via another route, but I've forwarded this to you because they include a statement of the impact that net assessments have on our research on Soviet strategic planning and how the new initiative we requested would offset that impact.

3. In addition to those net assessment activities specified in the attached talking points, we are now participating in a working group of the joint OSD/JCS/DCI Net Assessment Coordinating Committee. The working group is charged with drafting a charter for the NACC that will formally define the responsibilities of the participating agencies. A charter should be agreed upon within the next week or so.

4. With respect to the questions that the SSCI submitted on the extent of GDIP support to net assessments (attached), I can provide you with the following information on DIA's commitment to net assessments:

- o DIA is participating in all of the net assessment activities in which we are currently participating--including those listed on the attached talking points.
- o In addition, DIA is a member of the Red Planning Board, which is a JCS committee that defines a Soviet-style attack plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the US strategic strike plan (SIOP).

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- o DIA is currently developing a set of targets in North America and NATO Europe and in Asia to analyze Soviet strategic targeting requirements. DIA will use these target sets to provide JCS and SAC with an assessment of the impact of START reductions on Soviet capabilities, relative to US capabilities.
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Based on the above, one can argue that DIA has a larger role and greater impact on net assessments today than do we.

3. The last SSCI question, that net assessments can corrupt the intelligence process, is a canard. DIA has long participated in DoD net assessments, and in fact is doing so for SAC and JCS right now to help DoD reach a policy position on START. Moreover, a great deal of work which CIA has done in the area of technical analysis of US weapon systems and Soviet operational capabilities has raised policy issues. One could say we are not doing our job if our analysis is not relevant to policy.

5. The real question here is whether, in the course of doing net assessments, the intelligence analyst uses blue data to reach conclusions about Soviet forces that is inconsistent with the information we collect via intelligence channels. This is a danger that all intelligence analysts are aware of and there are a number of safeguards--including the review process and the requirement in all papers to specify sources of data--to ensure that this line is not crossed.

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Distribution:

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